

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. SD-6778/S96430
SERIAL NO. 09/975,271
PATENT

REMARKS

Claims 2-15 and 17-28 are pending in the application. Claims 13 and 25 have been canceled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 2-12, 14, 15, 17-24, 26, and 27.

Claims 13 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,621,913 A to Tuttle, et al ("Tuttle"). Claims 13 and 25 have been canceled by this amendment.

Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,771,935 B1 to Leggett ("Leggett") in view of Newton's Telecom Dictionary (9th Edition, 1995) definition of "TDMA."

Applicants respectfully submit that comparisons to Leggett are unwarranted for the following reasons. Leggett teaches an RF communications bus. This bus requires a waveguide wherein the RF is contained within a metal enclosure within which the RF propagates. The present invention utilizes RF propagating through free space, only being bounded by the external enclosure in order to prevent interference with nearby devices and/or to comply with FCC regulations regarding RF emissions. This enclosure is not required for proper operation of the present invention. The present invention is not limited in this manner.

The present invention can be clearly differentiated from Leggett by its architecture, which utilizes network addresses as the fundamental way of directing information from one port to another rather than the placement of antennas within a waveguide as taught in Leggett.

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Leggett also teaches a communication path that is limited to the extent of the RF waveguide. The present invention is not limited in this manner. The present invention provides a communications device that can be located anywhere within the enclosure or within range of the RF transceivers. The present invention is flexible and reconfigurable. Leggett is limited in the way that the ports must be configured at design time, careful consideration being given to the points in the waveguide at which antennas can and cannot be inserted. Once the design taught by Leggett is finalized, the ports cannot be changed and additional ports cannot be easily added. In contrast, the present invention teaches a simple method of adding new ports by simply adding new devices anywhere within the range of the RF propagation.

Applicants, as individuals skilled in the art, respectfully submit that drawing a correlation between network addresses and TDMA is not obvious. A review of the definition of TDMA as cited in Newton reveals no reference to "source or destination addresses." Therefore, the Examiner's conclusion is based on an incorrect assumption. Newton, as cited by the Examiner, is copied below for reference.

TDMA Time Division Multiple Access. One of several technologies used to separate multiple conversation transmissions over a finite frequency allocation of through-the-air bandwidth. As with FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access), TDMA is used to allocate a discrete amount frequency bandwidth to each user, in order to permit many simultaneous conversations. However, each caller is assigned a specific timeslot for transmission. A digital cellular telephone system using TDMA assigns 10 timeslots for each frequency channel, and cellular

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telephones send bursts, or packets, of information during each timeslot.

The packets of information are reassembled by the receiving equipment into the original voice components. TDMA promises to significantly increase the efficiency of cellular telephone systems, allowing a greater number of simultaneous conversations.

Other definitions of TDMA further support Applicants' position that drawing a correlation between network addresses and TDMA is not obvious due to the lack of reference to "source or destination addresses." For example, the following is the reference from Webopedia:

Short for Time Division Multiple Access, a technology for delivering digital wireless service using time-division multiplexing (TDM). TDMA works by dividing a radio frequency into time slots and then allocating slots to multiple calls. In this way, a single frequency can support multiple, simultaneous data channels. TDMA is used by the GSM digital cellular system.

And finally a similar reference from the International Engineering Consortium:

Time division multiple access (TDMA) is digital transmission technology that allows a number of users to access a single radio-frequency (RF) channel without interference by allocating unique time slots to each user within each channel. The TDMA digital transmission scheme multiplexes three signals over a single channel. The current

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TDMA standard for cellular divides a single channel into six time slots, with each signal using two slots, providing a 3 to 1 gain in capacity over advanced mobile-phone service (AMPS). Each caller is assigned a specific time slot for transmission.

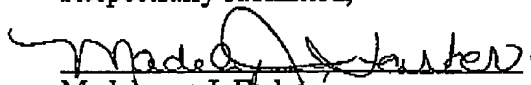
Applicants respectfully submit that these additional references, as well as the original reference, support Applicants' position that TDMA packets do not equate to addressed signals. The point of using network addresses is so the system of transceivers can be easily modified with additions and deletions as required. The use of network addresses is a key component to allowing a new port to be added and that port being able to begin communications without hardware modifications or reconfiguration of the original design.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 28, in addition to previously allowed claims 2-12, 14, 15, 17-24, 26, and 27, is allowable and requests notice to that effect.

Further and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,


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